

Appl. No. 10/624,219
Amdt. dated November 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-18 and 20-24 are respectfully requested. Applicants have attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated August 29, 2005 (Paper No. 20050810) and believe the application is now in condition for allowance. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claims 20 and 21, however Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 24 are allowable as amended.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite relating to the element “a lower portion” in line 11 of claim 1. As amended, the “lower portion” is recited as being part of the retaining structure. Accordingly, the rejection based on Section 112 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson (US 2,383,031). Wilson discloses an electric razor with a cord wrap formation in the handle configured so that the cord is wrapped axially around the handle. A cord plug 3 doubles as a blade guard. As seen in FIG. 1 of Wilson, the blade guard 3 is parallel with the cord loop array.

In contrast, as amended, claim 1 recites, among other things, that the retaining structure has front and rear ends, and is configured for orienting the cord looped around the

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front and rear ends to define an obtuse angle relative to the blade guard portion. The basis for this claim language is found in FIGs. 1 and 3 of the present application. In view of the lack, in Wilson, of the structure recited in amended claim 1, the rejection based on Wilson is respectfully traversed.

Claims 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vara (US 5,531,333). Vara discloses a cord reel for a hair dryer. The cord reel orients the cord so that it is parallel to the handle of the dryer.

As amended, claim 24 recites, among other things, that the at least one retaining structure includes a blade guard portion that is configured to extend along a first surface of a bladeset and project around teeth of the bladeset, and a lower portion of the retaining structure defining the cord channel, the lower portion extending at an obtuse angle to said blade guard. Since, among other things, Vara fails to disclose any blade guard portion or a lower portion extending at an obtuse angle relative to the blade guard as now recited, the rejection based on Vara is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of a combination of Gallanis et al. (US 4,233,733) and Silva (US 4,308,878). Gallanis discloses an electric shaver with an auxiliary clipper bladeset and a retractable clipper blade guard. The Examiner acknowledges the failure of Gallanis to disclose or suggest a cord wrap of any sort. Silva discloses a curling iron holder having a cord wrap. In Silva, the cord is frictionally held at the front and rear ends 38, 40 of the

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holder (Col. 3, lines 34-37). Since the cord is held in place at the end guides, there is no need for any other structure preventing its unraveling. Applicants respectfully dispute that there is any incentive whatsoever for combining the teachings of Silva and Gallanis as proposed by the Examiner. The very nature of an electric shaver and the need for keeping the blade area clear of extra structure so the user's face can be readily accessed teaches against any inclusion of extra cord wrap structure as disclosed by Silva.

Even if Silva and Gallanis could be combined, which Applicants dispute, the resulting combination would still fail to disclose or suggest the structure now recited in the amended claims. First, regarding claim 1, as amended it recites, among other things, that the retaining structure has front and rear ends, and configured for orienting the cord looped around the front and rear ends to define an obtuse angle relative to the blade guard portion. There is no combination of a blade guard with a cord loop in either reference, and no incentive to make such a combination. Further, even if a combination were made, the recited angular orientation of the cord loop relative to the blade guard is neither disclosed nor suggested.

Regarding claim 11, as amended the claim recites, among other things, at least one plug holder disposed between the front and rear ends for securing the cord adjacent a cord plug on the retaining structure for preventing the cord from unraveling from the cord channel. The Examiner recognizes that Gallanis lacks a cord wrap. Silva's cord wrap has no plug holder as recited between the two ends. Instead, Silva's cord wrap holds the cord in

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place, avoiding the necessity for a plug holder as now recited. In addition to the arguments asserted above, new claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 11 and add further distinguishing structure over the references. Accordingly, the rejection based on a combination of Gallanis and Silva is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11-14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of Silva. Since this rejection overlaps the rejection discussed above, the arguments asserted above are reasserted here. Silva neither discloses nor suggests the structure of amended claim 11. Accordingly, the rejection based on Silva alone is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of a combination of Silva and Vara. The Examiner alleges that Vara teaches the “snappingly” element of claim 6. Applicants respectfully disagree. Vara discloses rail-brackets 22, 24 which if anything “slidably” engage matching slots 112-114 of the storage bin 100 (Col . 3, lines 61-65). In addition to the lack in either cited reference of any disclosure of a snapping attachment of a blade guard, claim 6 depends from claim 1, which is already submitted to be patentable over Silva and Vara. Accordingly, the rejection based on a combination of Silva and Vara is respectfully traversed.

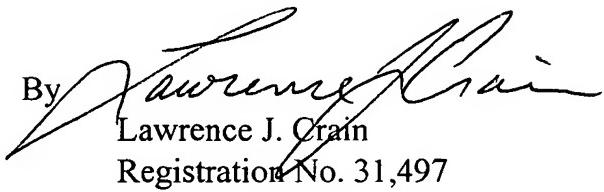
Applicants submit that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the art of record. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover

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remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, she is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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